Amendment

Amendments to Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 4 of page 1 as follows:

There are several problems with the techniques described above. First, if the data is hard coded into the software or the class definitions associated with the software, the software must be recompiled every time a change is made to the metadata. This can be problematic, because it is often necessary to support multiple versions of the software and hardware associated with the router or service processing switch. These multiple versions arise due to changes in product versions, changes in supported features, and changes in hardware versions. In previous ~~system~~ systems, these changes ~~require~~ required recompiling and rebuilding the software, or reinterpreting the IDL to produce new source code that must be built into the system. Furthermore, because the source code changes, it is necessary to retest the software that uses the metadata.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 14 of page 1 as follows:

~~As a result, there is a need in the art for the present invention.~~

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 18 of page 7 as follows:

In some embodiments of the invention, [[At]] at runtime, the service management system or other application desiring to read the metadata will be told of the location of the meta information through environment variables as is known in the art. In [[on]] one particular embodiment, the variables are the COSS_METAINFO_DIR and COSS_METAINFO_SUBSETS_FILE environment variables or COSS configuration file entries.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 25 of page 8 as follows:

In some embodiments, the servers and clients that have access to the metadata files 122 can access meta information from the same source in order to avoid the problem of metadata being out of sync. ~~It is desirable to keep~~ In one embodiment, the metadata is kept in ASCII files to further solve this problem. Also, maintaining the metadata files in a single known location is desirable, because it makes it simple to share as well as enter and edit meta information without access conflict between developers.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 16 of page 10 as follows:

Systems and methods for managing router metadata [[is]] are disclosed. ~~The embodiments~~ Embodiments of the invention provide advantages over previous systems. For example, [[the]] according to various embodiments of the invention, "static" (as opposed to "dynamic" or "run time") information about the router or service processing switch device's objects (NC objects) [[as]] are modeled by the system management applications. Since this information is captured in one place (e.g., in ASCII files) and not in multiple IDL, MOSU, C++ or Java classes, changing this information is easier. In addition, everyone desiring the metadata can stay in sync by referring to the same metadata file.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 24 of page 10 as follows:

Furthermore, since, according to one embodiment, information is captured in ASCII files (and not IDL, MOSU, C++ or Java code), when this information changes, no recompilation or rebuilding and most importantly retesting of libraries and executables are needed.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 2 of page 23 as follows:

A computerized method for managing ~~router~~ network device metadata is provided~~performs the following tasks~~. [[A]]According to one embodiment, a metadata file is created which is an ASCII representation of objects in a router. The router metadata is read by an application such as a service management system application. The metadata is converted into a runtime object model. In one embodiment, the objects in the runtime object model are loaded onto a router or a service processing switch using SNMP functions. The objects are then inserted into the SNMP MIB.